

THE WILSON BULLETIN.

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Living Birds.
Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Club.

Edited by **LYNDS JONES.**

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EDITORIAL.

The editor has Mr. Frank L. Burns to thank for collecting a considerable part of the copy for this issue.

The next number will contain two local lists of more than usual interest to readers in general. Carefully prepared local lists are always in demand.

The editor's headquarters will remain at 5623 Drexel avenue, Chicago, Ill., until further notice in the June number. Correspondence relating to advertising, subscriptions, and articles intended for print should be addressed to him there, but letters of request for sample copies or back numbers will receive prompt attention if addressed to Oberlin, Ohio.

It is not too early to be thinking about the May migration work. In spite of the splendid record made last year there is plenty of room for a better record yet. Study the weather map, if you have opportunity, and with its help select the best day and then work your field to your fullest capacity. Put your locality and your work in the first rank for wealth of bird life during the migrations. The editor cannot promise to print all "All Day" lists, but he will gladly print a list of those who make such lists with the number of species recorded if each person will send his list for inspection and possible tabulation.

In *Bird Lore* for November-December, Mr. Ernest Tompson Seton in introducing an excellent outline for the study of birds, writes in substance that the time has gone by when adequate good can result from ordinary collecting in well-known regions and that the experts of our museums, knowing the value of birds as they do, better than any other class of men, are the only ones who should be allowed to collect bird skins to-day. Just what is meant by ordinary collecting is not apparent, yet the student seeking to faithfully carry out his suggestions will find it expedient if not absolutely necessary to good work in fully one-quarter of the thirty-one sub-

heads offered, to take life occasionally. Were the museums many times as numerous as they are at present, there would still be many individuals unable to reach them through lack of time, distance or other causes. Would it be right to exclude such persons from collecting? In what manner have a certain coterie attained superior knowledge of the value of kinds over that of another class also studying at first hand? All honor to the museum expert! He is usually a hard and conscientious worker, who, not for value received, but perhaps for a consideration, collects, preserves and studies birds for the benefit of the public. Likewise the humble amateur—without the consideration. No one has, or should have, a monopoly of the knowledge of the value of a single species. With all respect for the writer, such sentiments are pure rot, unworthy of him and unjust to those at which they are aimed. F. L. B.

In *American Ornithology* for January, Mr. Reed has given us much excellent matter relating to the Warblers of the genus *Geothlypis* together with a plate showing the members in color, one-half natural size. F. L. B.

Prof. H. A. Surface, Economic Zoologist of Pennsylvania, has made a strong point of bird protection since he entered the office, in order that the people could understand why the birds should be preserved from an economic standpoint. The result has been most gratifying. Never before has there been such a strong sentiment for the protection of birds in the State. F. L. B.

Mr. Frank Bruen has an interesting article on the winter birds of Bristol, Conn., in a recent issue of a local paper. F. L. B.

Mr. W. H. Brownson, of the *Portland Advertiser*, is now the editor of the *Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society*, and publishes in the former for January 14, "A List of the Birds Observed in Cumberland County (Maine) in 1904," including 146 species; also on January 21, "A visitor from the North Pole," an account of the capture of a Dovekie, blown in by a storm. F. L. B.

The editor is sorry that space did not permit the printing of the New Year Censo-Horizons this time, because other matter of more importance was received. He is glad to be able to report, however, that there was more material sent in than could be printed in this number. If this were always true the editor would not only be saved a considerable amount of worry, but a better Bulletin would always be insured. Original field work which has for its object the increase of our knowledge of the birds is always in great demand, and earnestly solicited. We have scarcely more than made a beginning in the study of bird habits.